

Easter

Pre-reading

Questions:

- When is Easter?
- What do you know about this holiday?

Definitions:

- Ancient – of times long ago
- Goddess – a female being that is worshipped and believed to have special powers over nature or life
- Tradition – beliefs and customs that are passed down from parents to children over many years



Reading

18 Easter is a religious holiday. It is also a celebration of spring. Easter is on a different Sunday
38 every year. But it is always in March or April. Which Sunday? It is on the first Sunday after the
full moon on or after March 21. (March 21 is the first day of spring.)

53 People have celebrated spring for thousands of years. The word Easter comes from the name
68 of the ancient goddess of spring and light. In the spring, flowers bloom and trees become green.
85 The earth wears new clothes. Many people also wear new clothes on Easter Sunday.

99 Eggs and rabbits are signs of spring and new life. Many children believe in the Easter bunny.
116 This **imaginary** rabbit visits many homes the night before Easter. He fills children's Easter
130 baskets with candy and small gifts.

136 The Easter bunny also brings Easter eggs. Some of these eggs are hard-boiled, colorful ones.
152 Others are chocolate. Some eggs are plastic with small treats inside. The Easter bunny hides eggs
168 in the house or outside in the yard. On Easter morning, children look for eggs from the Easter
186 bunny.

187 Jelly beans are also popular Easter treats. Over 15 billion of these egg-shaped candies were
203 eaten in 1998. If they were lined up end to end, they would circle the earth nearly three times!

222 For millions of Christians, Easter is an important religious holiday. Two days before Easter is
237 Good Friday. Christians believe Jesus Christ died on this day. God **raised** him from the dead on
254 Easter Sunday. Easter is a very joyful holiday for Christians. Many people go to church on Easter.

271 Easter has roots deeper than any one belief. It is a mix of spring traditions. Easter reminds us
289 that the cold of winter and death will pass. For some, Easter is about the rebirth of life in spring.
309 For others, it is about the rebirth of Christ.

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